

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise also to try to explain my position on this proposition 300. I did vote against the kill motion the other day. I do not intend to vote for reconsideration today, but I do hope you were listening to Senator Harris. I think he said some things that need to be said. In my opinion, Initiative 300 is not going to do a thing to help the family farm but it will do a lot of things to hurt the family farm. Small farmers are going to be hurt down the road by Initiative 300. There are parts of 300, I guess the thing that Senator Hefner talks about, 80 percent majority, yes, it was a big majority but I think there was a lot of Prudential hysteria at that time that brought that about. I was flooded with letters and telephone calls last week. With those that I talked to directly, I found that like Senator Lynch they had not read the bill. They did not know the details in that bill and the implications of it. I am opposed to corporations, the type of Prudential, owning large blocks of land because, as Senator Harris said, that is a forever situation. I think Initiative 300 needs major surgery. I am not going to vote for it this time but maybe for a different reason than some of the rest of you. I don't want to put it on the ballot because we haven't done the selling job. We have been telling the people that support Initiative 300 that that has been the cause of the decline in price of land and there is no way we can show that because other states, the price of land went down because there wasn't any money in agriculture. It has been a very poor argument but there are many arguments in favor of overhauling, of doing major surgery on Initiative 300. They talk about the family farm. Fifty years ago farming was labor intensive. A young farmer could get started with very little capital but I remember well those days 50 years ago. I am old enough to have been around. They didn't start buying their land. In fact they started as a tenant on maybe an 80 or 160 acres of land and farmed many years before they were able to buy that piece of ground, and many farmers, many of those family farmers we are talking about, never achieved the satisfaction of owning their farmstead. Today we are in a highly capital intensive farming situation. It is a business. It is not a way of life, it is a business. It is highly capital intensive. And to continue with the idea that the operator is going to own the land I think is a dream. It is not going to happen. It